

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A sweetener composition, comprising:

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and
- (b) aspartame,

wherein said aspartame is present in said composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

Please cancel Claims 2 and 7-9.

11. (Three Times Amended) A method for preparing a drink composition, comprising dissolving:

(A) a mixture, comprising

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;
- and

(b) aspartame;

and in

(B) a potable liquid, wherein said aspartame is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

13. (Three Times Amended) A method for producing a sweetener, comprising:
mixing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with
aspartame, to obtain said sweetener composition,
wherein said aspartame is present in said sweetener composition in an amount of
50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said aspartame
and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester
comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

15. (Three Times Amended) A method for improving the dissolution rate of
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, comprising:
mixing said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester
with aspartame, prior to dissolving said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester,
wherein said aspartame is mixed with said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount of 50
to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said
aspartame and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine
1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.